

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 OIC-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W

----- 123742

R 302220Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8414

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4002

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OASGA CO

SUBJ: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY 8-19, 1975

REF: STATE 095203

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ON APRIL 29 DISCUSSED FORTHCOMINGS OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH ACTING UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES ALVARO BONILLA.

2. BONILLA, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO TO WASHINGTON (PRESENT PLANS DO NOT CALL FOR ANY ADDITIONAL DELEGATION MEMBERS FROM BOGOTA) DESCRIBED THE COLOMBIAN OUTLOOK AS PESSIMISTIC. HE POINTED OUT THAT, DESPITE THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF CHARTER REFORM, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE AGREEMENT ON THE FORM THAT A RESTRUCTURED OAS SHOULD TAKE. BONILLA SAID HE FEARED THAT THE UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY "MORE BLAH-BLAH-BLAH."

3. IN REGARD TO THE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AT THE OUTSET OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BONILLA SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

A) CHARTER REFORM AND THE FUTURE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF THE OAS.

B) THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE OAS SECRETARIAT, WHICH, BONILLA SAID, NOT CONSIDERED OF A NUMBER OF NEARLY AUTONOMOUS GROUPS.

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HE SAID THERE WAS A DEFINITE NEED TO CENTRALIZE THE OAS SECRE-

TARIAT.

- C) THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE.
- D) THE SELECTION OF A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. BONILLA ALSO SAID THAT, DEPITE COLOMBIAN PREFERENCES TO THE CONTRARY, PRESSURES, LARGELY FROM VENEZUELA AND MEXICO, WOULD MAKE IT NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (CELA). THE ACTING UNDER SECRETARY CHARACTERIZED THE IDEA OF A REGIONAL GROUPING WITHOUT US PARTICIPATION AS NEITHER CONSTRUCTIVE NOR REALISTIC. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD, IF BROUGHT TO FRUITION, CREATE YET ANOTHER FORUM FOR LENGTHY SPEECHMAKING.

5. IN REGARD TO THE SELECTION OF A SECRETARY GENERAL, BONILLA REMAINED NOCOMMITTAL. THE SELECTION, HE SAID, COULD BEST BE MADE WHEN THERE WAS A CLEARER IDEA OF THE FUTURE NATURE OF THE OAS AND, BY EXTENSION, OF THE ROLE THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PLAY.

6. TENTATIVE PLANS CALL FOR LIEVANO AND BONILLA TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON ON MAY 6. LIEVANO PLANS TO SPEND ONLY A FEW DAYS AT THE OASGA. BONILLA WILL REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE SESSION. NEITHER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SPOUSE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA04002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750153-0712
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaaamn.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 095203
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY 8-19, 1975
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CO, OAS, (BONILLA, ALVARO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006